AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A security element comprising a cover layer having gaps in the form of characters or patterns forming visually and/or machine readable first information, wherein a printed image forming visually and/or machine readable second information is disposed in the gaps in register, and further wherein the content of the first and second information is different.

2. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer is opaque at least in partial areas.

3. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer is screened at least in partial areas, said screen being selected from the group consisting of a dot screen, a line screen and a screen of repeating similar screen elements.

4. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer is semitransparent at least in partial areas.

5. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer comprises a metal coating, the metal coating being selected from the group consisting of aluminum, gold, copper, iron, nickel and an alloy containing one or more of said metals.

6. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer contains a dielectric layer structure that produces different color effects in reflected light upon a change of viewing angle.

7. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 6, wherein the dielectric layer structure is opaque or semitransparent.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the printed image is finely structured and/or of high resolution.

10. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the printed image contains an ink containing pigments selected from the group consisting of luminescent pigments, magnetic pigments, liquid crystal pigments and interference layer pigments.

11. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the printed image is multicolored or formed of inks with different pigment content.

12. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the printed image forms letters, numbers or geometrical figures.

13. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the printed image is printed into the gaps by a digital printing method.

14. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the gaps form letters, numbers or geometrical figures.

15. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the security element forms a security thread or a tear thread.

16. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the security element forms a transfer element or a label for protecting an object of value such as a document of value.

17. (Previously Presented) A security paper having a security element according to claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) The security paper according to claim 17, wherein the security element is present in the form of a thread or band.

19. (Previously Presented) The security paper according to claim 18, wherein the security element is embedded into the security paper as a windowed security thread.

20. (Previously Presented) The security paper according to claim 18, wherein the security element is disposed completely on the surface of the security paper.

21. (Previously Presented) A document of value having a security element according to claim 1.

22. (Previously Presented) The document of value according to claim 21, wherein the printed image disposed in the gaps repeats the motif of another printed image of the security paper, such as, for example, a national flag, a denomination, a portrait or an architectural motif.

23. (Previously Presented) An object of value provided with a security element in the form of a transfer element or label according to claim 1.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a security element with a printed image and a cover layer, the cover layer having gaps in the form of characters or patterns, comprising first applying the cover layer with the gaps to a carrier film and then producing the printed image in the gaps of the cover layer in register by digital printing.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the cover layer comprises a metal layer, and the metal layer is applied by vapor deposition or by electron-beam vaporization.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the printed image is produced in the gaps by a virtual printing method selected from the group consisting of digital printing such as ink jet, thermal sublimation or thermal transfer, a temporary digital printing method such as an electrophotographic method, ionography or magnetography, in particular by a toner-based printing method such as laser printing, and a liquid-ink method such as Indigo.

27. (New) The security element according to claim 1, wherein the security element contains a plastic layer with a surface relief in the form of a diffraction structure embossed thereinto.